



Your ref: HL73687/ACC/RLS
Application No: GB 9926450.9
Applicant: Shell International Research Maatschappij
B.V.

Examiner: Nicholas Mole
Tel: 01633 813797
Date of report: 22 November 2002

Latest date for reply: 6 February 2003

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Patents Act 1977

Examination Report under Section 18(3)

Basis of the examination

1. My examination has taken account of the amendments filed with your agent's letter of 15 November 2002.

Conciseness/plurality of invention

2. Your claims are not concise under Section 14(5)(b) through the multiplicity of independent claims, obscuring the nature of the invention. You will need to amend your claims, so that they relate clearly and concisely to only one invention or inventive concept.

Scope of examination

3. Pending suitable amendment of the claims an initial examination of the amended original claims 1-8 has been carried out and forms the basis for the report below.

Added matter

4. Your amended application discloses subject matter which was not present in the original application. Any amendment which extends the original disclosure of an application is not allowable and should be removed or the application may be refused. The additional subject matter I have identified is:

'plastically deformed' in claims 1, 5, 6 and 7

'into sealing engagement' in claims 1, 5, 6 and 7

The description at page 6 lines 9-10 only discloses that the solid tubular may be radially expanded into intimate contact with the wellbore. The consideration of the validity of the arguments in relation to novelty and inventive is deferred pending suitable amendment.

Clarity/support

5. Objection 6 of the examination report of 15 May 2002 still stands. A consistory clause must fully-correspond to the claim.

6. As foreshadowed by the Agent's letter objections relating to the amendment of the description are outstanding.